SUBJECT No. 198.

Lending money by Government on State Insurance Policy to the insured.

Mr. Srikanta Rao, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Petty Government officials whose lives are insured by the State find it hard to obtain money for expenses connected with marriages, etc. The Government may beneficially introduce the system of lending money between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount at certain decent interest as is done by other Insurance Companies.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be done. The insurance is intended to provide for the officer and his family after the former's retirement, or for the maintenance and support of the latter in the case of the former's untimely death. It is not intended to be used otherwise while the officer remains in service.

EXCISE.

(Nos. 199—202.)

SUBJECT No. 199.

Tree-tax and tree-rent to be paid to land holders.

Mr. Srinivasa Rao, Pavagada Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—For drawing toddy from trees grown in an Inam village, the Inamdar is paid the tree-tax, while for the toddy drawn from trees grown on Government lands in holding, the Khatedar is paid only four annas as tree-rent, though the Khatedar has as much right to trees as the Inamdar. It is therefore requested that the Khatedar may be treated like the Inamdar.

Reply of Government.—The two cases are different. Tree-tax is paid to the Inamdar only if the latter is entitled to toddy revenue, otherwise he gets only tree-rent like any occupant of Government land whose trees are tapped; and the amount of tree-rent is left to the occupant's will, the rate of four annas applying only to Government trees.

SUBJECT No. 200.

Toddy and arrack sales once in three or five years.

Mr. Srikanta Rao, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Toddy and arrack sales should be held once in three or five years. The present system is disadvantageous both to the contractors and the Government. Many respectable contractors have been rendered paupers during the past five or six years by the present system.

Reply of Government.—There is something to be said in favour of the proposal, which will be referred to the Excise Commissioner for consideration.

SUBJECT No. 201.

Free grant of bagani trees on occupied lands.

Messrs. Kigga Channakesava Rao, and Venkatasubbaiya of Koppa.

Summary of discussion.—A. The privilege of drawing toddy from bagani trees standing on occupied lands may be granted free to the occupants thereof for their *bona fide* purposes.

B. It is requested that Malnad gowdas and coffee planters may be permitted to use bagani toddy free of any charge.

Reply of Government.—This is an old subject, which has been repeatedly brought up for discussion. Government are prepared to show some concession to occupants